

U.S. Military Academy - Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters HABS No. NY-5708-16
(Quarters 146)

North of the intersection of Ruger and Howard Roads
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS

NY

20-10870

1/16 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER'S QUARTERS
(Quarters 146)

HABS
NY
36-WEPT
1/16-

LOCATION: North of the intersection of Ruger and Howard Roads,
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.58690.4582700.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT: United States Military Academy, Department of the Army

PRESENT USE: Officer's quarters.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters 146 is one of the two surviving "carpenter Gothic"
houses from the Academy's mid-nineteenth century period.
It is among the oldest of quarters today and retains its
exterior integrity as a "Downingesque" cottage.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1858 - 1859 (Williams).
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy,
Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: As originally constructed,
Quarters 146 was without a front or rear porch. The kitchen was first
in the basement but was moved into the space of a former study on the
first floor. According to 1938 floor plans, one first entered the west
room or living room, with a dining room separated off to the east by
a brick partition wall. The Board of Visitor's Report from 1887
states that:

"The Records show that in 1858 and 1859 the brick cottage on a
line with the post office building was built as a store-house,
or confectionary, at a cost of \$5,013.76, which cost was defrayed
by the cadet quartermaster's department fund. This building is now
known as the cadet cottage, and is now and has been occupied for
years past as officers' quarters. The cadet quartermaster's
department received rent for said building during the years
1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885, from the quartermaster's department,
U.S. Army, at a rate of \$24 per month, the cadet quartermaster's
department fund defraying during the meanwhile the cost of
necessary repairs. . . .

"The building, it is understood, is occupied as quarters for officers simply because there is an insufficiency of quarters for the officers stationed here."

6. Alterations and additions: Dateable alterations are limited to the 1938 conversion of a first floor study into a kitchen and the 1950 rehabilitation of the kitchen. All other alterations are undated. These include the addition of front and rear frame porches; one fully and one partially bricked-up rear window on the first floor; a new window on the second floor; the addition of exterior storm windows; a filled basement window; the placement and removal of basement partition walls; the shifting of a partition wall between the living room and dining room; the removal of the living room chimney flue; a door cut between the living room and the kitchen, a filled kitchen closet door; and a general modernization, including electricity, plumbing and the creation of two bathrooms.

B. Historical Context:

Located in what has been designated by HABS as the Post Services Area, Quarters 146 was one of three adjacent "carpenter Gothic" houses built in the Camptown area of the Academy. Captain Charles W. Williams mentioned in his 1889 Post Facilities Report that the structure had been built in 1858 - 1859 as a confectionary but had been converted into quarters for a subaltern by 1889. There is the possibility that its identification as a confectionary might be an error due to the next-door proximity to the Boodlers (#147, HABS No. NY-5708-19), which was a confectionary. In more recent times the building is perhaps more well known as the residence of the character Marty Mayer in the movie "The Long Grey Line." For the historical context of this building within the overall development of West Point see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point - An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarters 146 represents in its exterior form a Gothic Revival cottage as popularized by Andrew J. Downing and Alexander J. Davis in the mid-nineteenth century. With its high pitched gables, buttresses, decorative barge boards, pendants, label molds and painted brickwork, the building typifies this romantic revival style.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in excellent condition

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is basically square (29'-6" x 28'-3") with a projecting entrance porch on the north and south. There are two stories above a basement and three bays to each elevation.
2. Foundation: The 2' thick foundations are composed of random range ashlar stone (probably granite) with a cut, bevelled watertable. Both the foundation walls and the watertable are now painted a beige color.

3. Walls: The walls are brick laid in a 5-course American bond and painted beige. The trim parts, window sills, label molds and buttress weatherings are stone (probably sandstone) and painted a light red color. Brick buttresses project diagonally from each corner.
4. Structural systems: The structural system is composed of a 12" load-bearing brick wall resting on a 24" stone foundation wall. A common wood joist and rafter system make up the floor and roof system respectively.
5. Porches: Frame porches have been added to the front (south) and rear (north) entrances. The front porch is a 6'-7" x 8'-6" structure on a concrete slab. It features chamfered posts, a wooden balustrade and a spandrel with vertical boards which forms a pointed head opening. The rear porch is not confined to the entrance vestibule projection but extends east to the end of the building. This 17'-10" x 12'-4" porch is raised on concrete piers and has a four-step stairs leading to it on the west side. The posts are chamfered and is screened to the inside of the wooden balustrade.
6. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys are off-set to the north of the roof ridge. Each has two square stacks turned 90° which rise from a rectangular base.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two principal doorways and an exterior basement doorway. The main doorway on the south has two solid panelled doors with a pointed arch solid wooden transom above containing three triangular panels.

The rear doorway has a four light window in the wooden door and a traceried transom window above. A granite retaining wall on the east forms a flight of granite steps that lead down to the basement doorway. This brick jamb doorway contains a nine light window in the wooden door.
 - b. Windows: Four windows light the basement, one each on the east and west and two on the facade or south elevation. These eight-over-eight light double-hung wood sash windows are all in light wells formed by granite retaining walls. A brick patch just below the watertable on the west elevation might indicate a former basement window. Similarly, the basement door on the east, which corresponds with the patch, might have been an original basement window. The only other basement opening is a small blocked-up window on the west which presumably is a coal chute.

The first floor fenestration consists of two windows on each of the east, west, and south elevations with one blocked and one altered window on the north. In addition, there is a window on both sides of the entrance vestibule. On the second floor there is one window centered under the gable of each elevation. With the exception of the south gable window, which is a one-over-one double-hung aluminum sash, all of the other windows are similar. A pointed arch stone label mold and a stone sill highlight each opening. Brick jambs are bevelled and form a pointed arch opening. The wooden sash have mullions and muntins which reproduce a perpendicular style tracery pattern. Storm sash with wire screens have been placed over all windows.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Quarters 146 has a gable roof with its ridge oriented east-west. A steep-pitch gable projects perpendicularly from the roof on the north and south. The roof is covered with slate.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A mill-sawn barge board with cut-out pendants is typically the most decorative feature of the cottage design. Turned wooden pendants at the apex of each of the three gables hang behind the barge board and under the over-hanging eaves. There are no gutter systems other than a concrete ground gutter which encircles the building.
- c. The one dormer on the north-west side of the roof is an addition. It has a copper roof and slate sides.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans: See attached sketch plan.
2. Stairways: The interior stairs are located in the north-east corner of the building and connect the basement through the second floor. These are wooden with a wooden balustrade. The basement stairs are enclosed by flush vertical boards.
3. Flooring: Floors are cement in the basement and hardwood (replacement) on the first and second floor.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: For the most part, walls and ceilings have a plaster finish.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are solid wood and without distinction. They typically measure 2'-9" x 7'-0" in the basement and 2'-9" x 6'-10" on the second floor.
6. Decorative features and trim: In contrast to the exterior, the interior is virtually without decorative trim. Renovations have removed all original trim.
7. Hardware: There is no original or other hardware of note.
8. Mechanical equipment: Mechanical systems have been modernized. All lights are incandescent. The heating system is steam radiators.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Quarters 146 is situated on a sloping site at the north edge of the Plain. It faces south toward Quarters 102 (HABS No. NY-5708-3) and Washington Road. Across Howard Road to the east is the Ordinance Compound (HABS No. NY-5708-8-14), to the north, Eisenhower Hall and to the northeast, the Boodlers (HABS No. NY-5708-19). Small shrubs surround the building on its grassy site. A small cave is exposed to the east where exterior granite steps lead to the basement.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Original drawings are not known to exist. Subsequent measured drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

Williams, Captain Charles, "Post Facilities Report" 1889. U.S. Military Academy.
 - 2. Secondary and published sources: Board of Visitor's Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

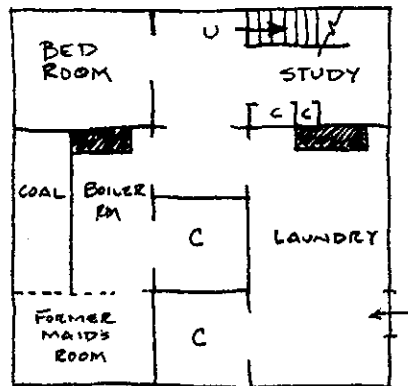
Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey. 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey. 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.
- D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- E. Supplemental Material:
 - 1. Sketch plans, Quarters 146.

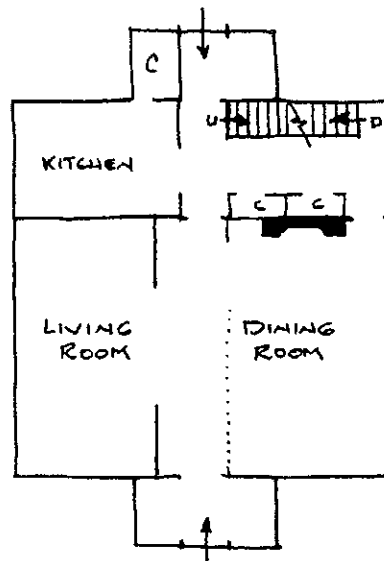
E. Supplemental Material:

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' QUARTERS

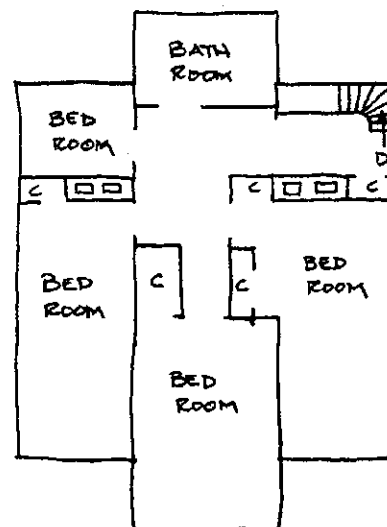
H.A.B.S. No. NY-5708-16 (U.S.M.A. No. 146)



BASEMENT



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

NORTH



PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708 Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.